

**Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 05, 2006**  
**1230 p.m.**  
**Gambling Conference Room**

Chairman McHale called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m..

**Board members present:** Chairman George McHale, Peter Danton, Michael Peters and W. Lawrence Hall.

**Staff members present:** Exec.Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods, Lt. Patrick Fleming, Sgt. Robin Parker and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

**Legal counsel:** Melissa R. O'dea A.A.G.

- **Review of Minutes from the December 15, 2005 meeting.**

**\*\*Motion:** Mike Peters moved to accept.

**\*\*Second:** Larry Hall.

**\*\* Vote:** 4-0

- **Executive Director Report – Robert Welch**

1. The Gambling Control Board's response to Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee letter of 8/15/05 will be sent after a comment period.
2. A list of projects for the Gambling Control Board Unit for 2006 was presented.
3. Hollywood Slots has developed a responsible gaming brochure that lists the National Problem Gaming 800 Help Line # in it, which Maine Lottery also uses. A meeting was held with Kim Johnson from the Substance Abuse Office, with representatives from agencies that deal with gambling/gaming. The purpose was to look at what can be provided for counselor services in the State of Maine for problem gamblers and also to discuss materials to be generated for Responsible Gaming Week being held in March. Kim will be setting up certification guidelines for counselors interested, which will involve a minimum of 8 hours of training.
4. Melissa O'Dea, from the A.G.'s office advised the Board that in reference to any positions that are waived positions, not requiring a license, that they had no legal authority to do the complete background check that is done on licensed employees.

- **Financial Report**

Scott Woods provided the Board with financial information for the past month's receipts from Hollywood Slots. The information is also posted on the Gambling Control Board's website. Payments to the State from Hollywood Slots is done on a regular basis, providing the revenue to the beneficiaries in a consistent manner.

- **Update on State Police Activity – Sgt. Robin Parker**

Since the last Board meeting on December 15th, State Police personnel have processed 2 more applications.

- **Other Business**

**LD 1748:** Rep. Randy Hotham addressed the Board, regarding LD 1748, which will make technical changes to the Gambling Control Law (LD 1820). He advised them also if they felt a need to change the language in order to better do their job, to feel free to do so.

**Board Room Internet Wiring:** Board member Larry Hall provided the Board with a letter from Senator Joseph Perry, who advised the Board, if they so desired, that they could use the Legislature's Taxation Committee's Room at the Statehouse, first floor, for future Board meetings at no cost and is internet wired. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of changing the meetings from the Gambling Control Board Conference Room at 45 Commerce Drive to the Taxation Room at the Statehouse.

**\*\*Motion:** made by Larry Hall to accept the invitation of Senator Perry and move the Board meetings to the Taxation Room at the State House.

**\*\*Seconded:** by Mike Peters

**\*\*Vote:** 4-0.

**(Note: the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at this new location at the State house.)**

**Recording of meetings:** Bob Welch reported to the Board as requested, information regarding the purchase of a digital recorder, that would allow us to put audio CD's on the website of each Board meeting, with an excellent microphone system that picks voices up very well. The cost of such would be under \$600.00.

**\*\*Motion:** made by Peter Danton to authorize Mr. Welch to purchase the digital recorder equipment.

**\*\*Seconded:** by Larry Hall

**\*\*Vote:** 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

Jon Johnson, general manager of Hollywood Slots reported that there had been 66,000 visitors to the Racino in December, with a total of 130,000 for November and December 2005. In December, 5,000 folks were checked for proper ID's with 210 refused entry because of either improper ID or intoxication. The Racino paid almost 2 million in taxes, with the gaming tax rate of 51%. From June to December 2005, Penn National spent \$17.6 million on Hollywood Slots. This included payment to Maine construction vendors, purchasing of slot machines from an out of state vendor, and a remaining 6.5 million to Maine vendors exclusively for start up costs. Johnson reported 70% of the 17.6 million that could be spent in Maine was spent on Maine businesses.

**\*\*Next meeting date set for February 9, 2006 at 1230 in Augusta at the Taxation Committee Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at the Statehouse\*\***

**Motion** by Peter Danton to adjourn

**Second** by Mike Peters

**Passed 4-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.**